



# San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

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## Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee Solid Waste Working Group

Sam Pedroza, Chair

May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008

11:30 am

MINUTES

### 1.0 Preliminary Business

#### 1.1 Call to Order

S. Pedroza called the meeting to order at 11:50 am.

#### 1.2 Self-Introductions

##### Present

S. Pedroza	LACSD, Claremont
M. Rodriguez	Arcadia
P. Yao	Claremont
V. Castro	Covina
M. Juarez	Covina
P. Alva	LA County Public Works
C. Skye	LA County Public Works
H. Maloney	Monrovia
A. Ho	Monterey Park
D. Figoni	San Dimas
A. Huang	San Gabriel
J. Gonzalez	South El Monte
S. Samaniego	West Covina

##### SGVCOG Staff

M. Creter, Staff  
B. Cooke, Staff

### 2.0 Discussion Items

2.1 Legislative Update – There was a request to move this item to the beginning of the agenda.

County of LA Public Works staff led discussion of the following legislative items:

- County of Los Angeles has taken a position of “Support” on the following legislative bills
  - **AB 501:** Manufacturers would be required to supply to customers upon request a mail-back container for sharps administered in the home.
  - **AB 1391:** Retailers of covered electronic devices must provide customers with the CIWMB’s website for information regarding disposal of the device
  - **AB 1860:** Reauthorize unsafe products recall or warning requirements
  - **AB 2058:** Staff explained that this bill is the newest version of plastic-bag related legislation. AB 2829, which the COG had formally supported, died in the Assembly under the conditions that many of its provisions be included in AB 2058. AB 2058 would require a per fee bag fee of 0.25 cents – this fee would apply to both plastic and paper bags. Currently, businesses would retain the funds to implement recycling, cleanup, or waste reduction programs. LA County, among other organizations, is working to change the language to allow funds collected to go to local jurisdictions for clean-up activities. Under this proposal, the funding would be distributed on a per capita basis rather than through a competitive grant process.

There was a motion to recommend to the Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee a position of “Support in Concept” (M/S/C: P. Alva, M. Juarez, Unanimous)
  - **SB 1357:** Grant funding from the Department of Conservation for beverage recycling programs
  - **SB 1625:** Expands CA Bottle and Can Recycling Law to include all plastic bottles. The intention is to increase the recovery rate for bottles.
- County of Los Angeles has taken a position of “Oppose” on the following legislative bills:
  - **AB 2640:** There was discussion regarding this bill as the COG has already taken a position of “Oppose Unless Amended” as recommended by the Solid Waste Working Group. The bill has passed out of the Assembly and is now being reviewed by the Senate. Staff reported that the bill has been amended, however an increased diversion rate from 50% to 75% remains in the language of the bill as well as a .40 cent fee increase for disposal/ton. The increased fee will not apply to ADC. Staff shared that they will send a copy of their submitted letter to all Senate members.

- **AB 2866:** This legislation would increase the solid waste disposal tipping fee by 0.40 cents to \$2.

There was also discussion regarding adherence to Proposition 218 and cities plans to raise commercial hauling rates.

## 2.2 Working Group Purpose & Six-Month Schedule

Staff presented the proposed Working Group purpose to act as a resource to elected officials in the San Gabriel Valley regarding solid waste-related issues on a regional level. The intent of the group is to connect elected officials to solid waste matters and provide a forum for information-exchange and collaboration on regional issues. City staff members are encouraged to participate as well to provide expertise, feedback, and to further act as resources for elected officials and city government officials. Discussion followed regarding the importance of conveying the urgency of solid waste issues in the San Gabriel Valley to elected officials and equipping these leaders with the tools to educate constituents and make decisions in this regard.

A discussion of possible objectives produced the following suggestions:

- **Trash 101:** This event is targeted to elected officials and will provide a basic overview of solid waste issues in the SGV. Working Group members discussed the importance of providing elected officials conceptual understanding of solid waste processes and the resources to answer questions regarding the future of solid waste including cost-competitiveness, cost-benefit analysis. Members suggested providing some sort of template for creating franchise agreements to participants. The Chair announced Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup> as the date for Trash 101. The Chair directed Staff to post the proposed agenda and requested Working Group Members to post feedback and suggestions.
- **Plastic Bag Program Presentation:** Working Group members expressed interest in recommending a presentation to the COG Governing Board regarding the County's plastic bag program.
- **Solid Waste Policy White Paper:** There was discussion as to the importance of creating a position paper that articulates the current need/situation, the COG's level of understanding and perspective of this issue. It was agreed that this white paper would promote increased awareness of solid waste issues in the SGV.
- **CIWMB Household Hazardous Waste Grant:** Staff presented this grant program as an opportunity to raise community awareness of solid waste issues, particularly producer responsibility trends. The COG is working with the California Product Stewardship Council to develop a grant proposal to fund a CFL-collection program and trainings. Staff requested feedback from the Working Group on the various proposed project ideas. Members recommended including battery collection activities in the CFL-collection program to have a

“single-drop” approach. Members were supportive of the grant application and the opportunity to take a regional approach to working with businesses on producer-responsibility initiatives. The Chair directed Staff to post proposed project ideas on the Bulletin Board and requested working group members post feedback and suggestions.

- **Contracting Database:** Members discussed the potential for assisting a private firm to develop a database for cities to utilize in coordinating rates and contracts for trash hauling. The contractor will undertake the work free of charge. There was discussion regarding the current databases available, some of which are not comprehensive nor structured so as to provide an “apples to apples” comparison. Members agreed to invite a representative of the firm to present at a future meeting.

There was discussion as to whether to complete the Solid Waste White Paper prior to Trash 101 or subsequent to this event. The Chair would review scheduling and workload issues to determine if this was possible. City of Monrovia staff shared that they have recently completed a Solid Waste White Paper they would share with the Working Group. In addition, the Los Angeles Sanitation Districts publish a yearly update on the state of Solid Waste which would be a valuable resource as well.

### 2.3 Trash 101 Date & Agenda

This item was discussed as part of the six-month work plan.

### 2.4 California Integrated Waste Management Board Household Hazardous Waste Grant Funding Fiscal Year 08-09

This item was discussed as part of the six-month work plan.

### 3.0 Items for Future Meetings

Items recommended for future meetings include: a legislative matrix, rebranding the name of “Trash 101,” a presentation regarding zero waste initiatives (Hermosa Beach), and suggestions for projects under the HHW grant.

### 4.0 Set next meeting date

The next meeting date was set for Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am at the West Covina City Hall Upper Conference Room.

### 5.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.